

REMARKS

Claims 19-42 are pending. Claims 19, 29, and 41 have been amended, and claims 21-25 and 32-36 have been canceled in this reply. No new claims have been added. Claims 19, 20, 26-31, and 37-42 therefore will be pending upon entry of the above amendments.

Claim 19 has been objected to because the term “10 megawatts” appears in the preamble, and not in the body of the claim. Claim 19 has been amended to place the noted limitation within the body of the claim, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 19-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that the term “approximately” renders the claims indefinite. Claims 21-25 and 32-36 have been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot with respect to those claims.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s assertion that the use of the term “approximately” renders the claims indefinite. As acknowledged by the Examiner on page 2, lines 4-6 of the office action, the claims are directed to a method, a system, and a computer-readable medium associated with small-scale power generation, based on the recitation of “a plurality of electric-power devices each capable of providing a maximum of approximately 10 megawatts.” Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art likewise would understand that the claims are associated with small-scale power generation based on this language, and therefore would reasonably be apprised of the scope of invention.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19, 20, 26-31, and 37-42 is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-21, 26-32, and 37-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. patent no. 6,519,509 (Nierlich) in view of U.S. patent no. 5,754,033

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(Thompson). Claims 21 and 32 have been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot with respect to those claims.

Claims 22-25 and 33-36 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims, and subject to withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and any other objections. Claims 22-25 and 33-36 have been canceled, thus rendering this objection moot.

Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of each of claims 22-25, and claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations of each of claims 33-36. Claim 41 has been amended in a manner consistent with claims 19 and 29. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19, 29, and 41 (and claims 20, 26-28, 30, 31, 37-40, and 42, which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

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